



Reading, Language, & Literacy

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Highlights from the 2024 ALA Youth Media Awards

This year's ALA Youth Media Awards have once again highlighted the best and the brightest in children's and young adult literature, affirming the power of stories in shaping young minds and nurturing a lifelong love for reading.

On January 22, 2024, The American Library Association (ALA) unveiled the 2024 winners of the prestigious Youth Media Awards at the Baltimore LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience event.

Celebrating the finest in children's literature, digital media, and audiobooks, these awards spotlight remarkable contributions across various categories, including the esteemed Caldecott, Newbery, Coretta Scott King, and Printz awards.

Check out the winners as well as access some online resources on page 4.

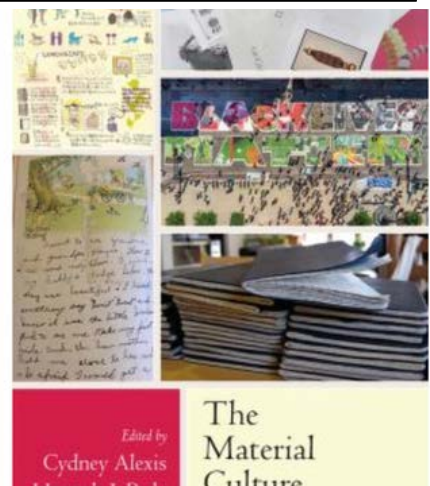
Our business in this world is not to succeed but to continue to fail, in good spirits.

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

What are we reading?

The Material Culture of Writing

by Cydney Alexis





Alumni Spotlight

The CSUSM RLL program has reinvigorated my love for being a teacher. As a teacher of both elementary and middle school for over twenty years I felt the desire to gain greater mastery over the craft of literacy instruction. I was excited to truly discover the best practices for literacy instruction as I thought this would reassure my worried teacher mind about if and how I was supporting my students in their literacy development. As a resident of North County San Diego, it was clear that the best choice for me to gain this knowledge of research based instructional practices should come from CSUSM due to its reputation in teacher education.

Upon enrolling in the RLL program, I was confronted with research and studies that challenged me to critically think about the practices I was using in my classroom to provide instruction. As a result, I chose to follow the science of reading and made sweeping changes to my instructional format and strategies based on the research from our program. The results of these changes have been career changing. The reading and writing performance of my students improved drastically. Students were much more engaged and motivated to demonstrate their abilities in class. More importantly my confidence grew, as I felt that the doubts I had about my literacy instruction I was providing were gone. This was simply because I utilized scientific research from the CSUSM RLL program that supported my actions and decisions in the classroom. All of these elements made my time with my students much more enjoyable. This could not have been possible without the support and guidance of Dr. Daniels and Dr. Wood as well as the other participants of the RLL program.

Rob Brown

Check out Rob's awesome project about [promoting reading performance through storytelling.](#)



See page 4 for more!



Virginia Hansen Speaker Series Spring 2024



Dr. John Spencer

Introduction to Project-Based Learning for All Students

[Click Here to Register](#)

Saturday
February 3, 2024
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (PT)
Zoom

Scan To Register



Make project-based learning successful and accessible to students of all ages and abilities!
In this free online workshop, sponsored by the Virginia Hansen Curriculum Endowment, Dr. John Spencer lays out the blueprint to make this a reality.

Registration will close at NOON on Friday, February 2nd

The Zoom link will be sent via email by 5 pm on 2/02/24



More from Rob . . .

The success and confidence that I gained from the CSUSM RLL program has provided me with the opportunity to work as the Literacy Specialist/Intervention Coach at my school. I am now in the process of sharing the research as well as the confidence I gained from the RLL program with my staff. I currently have the opportunity to coach teachers on areas of their literacy instruction and to collaborate at a district level about best practices. I hope to further this professional growth by continuing to share the knowledge and research of best practices in literacy instruction with the district as a teacher on special assignment. The expertise in the field of literacy that I have gained through the RLL program has me excited about helping to inform literacy decisions in our district for the future.

More from the ALA Awards

Newbery Medal: Awarded to “The Eyes and the Impossible” written by Dave Eggers and illustrated by Shawn Harris. This accolade celebrates the book's outstanding contribution to children's literature. Five other titles were honored as Newbery Honor Books.

Caldecott Medal: “Big” illustrated and written by Vashti Harrison claimed the Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children. Four other books received Caldecott Honor recognitions.

Coretta Scott King Awards: Celebrating African American authors and illustrators, “Nigeria Jones” written by Ibi Zoboi and “An American Story” illustrated by Dare Coulter, won the Author and Illustrator awards, respectively. Several honor books were also named in these categories.

Michael L. Printz Award: Recognizing excellence in literature written for young adults, “The Collectors: Stories,” edited by A.S. King, written by M.T. Anderson, e.E. Charlton-Trujillo, A.S. King, David Levithan, Cory McCarthy, Anna-Marie McLemore, G. Neri, Jason Reynolds, Randy Ribay and Jenny Torres Sanchez. was this year's recipient. Four other titles were honored as Printz Honor Books.

Pura Belpré Awards honoring Latinx writers and illustrators whose children's and young adult books best portray, affirm, and celebrate the Latino cultural experience: “Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir, illustrated by Pedro Martín, is the 2024 Pura Belpré Youth Illustration Award winner. Eight additional honor books were named.

Additional Awards

The announcement included winners of the Schneider Family Book Award, Alex Awards, and many others, celebrating a diverse range of stories, illustrations, and contributions to young adult literature.

The ALA's commitment to recognizing quality children's and young adult literature ensures that educators, parents, and young readers can access a curated selection of impactful and engaging reading material.

For a full list of winners and more information, visit the ALA website at www.ala.org/yma.

Additional Book Resources

There are thousands of resources related to children's books available to you - including Recommended books, Booklists, Diversity Statistics, and much more! <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/>

Free Books

<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america/support-your-readers/free-materials>

Diverse Books for All

<https://www.diversebooksforall.org/about-us>

ILA

Since 1975, ILA has recognized newly published authors of both fiction and nonfiction who show exceptional and unusual promise in the field. [Read about our 2023 winners](#) and hear what some of them had to say [in this free ILA webinar highlighting their work](#).